LETTER FROM THE RETOR

Dear friends and benefactors,

I sincerely wish to thank you for your prayers, cards, and gifts on the occasion of my 25th Anniversary of Priesthood. May God bless all of you in time and in eternity! Please be assured that you are remembered not only in the monthly Mass for benefactors of our seminary and on every Sunday and holyday when I offer Mass Pro Grege (for the flock), but also at the Memento of the Living in my daily Mass.

It is my privilege to serve you, the members of the Mystical Body of Christ, and for this reason I chose for my episcopal motto: animam pro ovibus ponere (to lay down my life for the sheep). I pray that Our Lord and Our Lady will continue to use me as their unworthy instrument.

One important issue that I commend to your prayers is the visa status of Fr. Luis Jurado from Argentina. Fr. Jurado has been legally in the United States for a number of years and has helped in various Mass centers: Mt. St. Michael (Spokane, WA), St. Joseph (Olathe, CO), Our Lady of the Snows (Denver, CO), Immaculate Conception (Burlington, CO), and Mary Help of Christians (Fountain, CO). Due to complications, Father had to return to Argentina in order to reapply for his R1 Visa. There should be no problems for him to renew his visa; however, it may take between forty-five days at earliest to one year at longest for his approval. In his absence, Fr. Gronenthal will temporarily replace him at our Mass centers in western Colorado. Hopefully this will be resolved by mid-August in time for our new school year at Mater Dei Academy. Fr. Gronenthal teaches school classes, and weekend Mass circuits to western Colorado will be both expensive and physically trying.

As I speak about our academy, this coming school year we are expecting approximately ninety students (K-12). Brother Xavier, CMRI, Frater Anthony, CMRI, Timothy Geckle and Marcellus Moylan are framing and dry-walling our final classroom which will complete all the necessary construction on church grounds. Slowly and surely Divine Providence has over the years provided the resources to develop our four acres of Church property. It has been a struggle at times, but with the completion of this last classroom, construction will be finished!

When our seminary and academy had its on-site inspection by Homeland Security in order for us to accept foreign students, the agent remarked that we have a little city here with priests, seminarians, religious Sisters, boarders, and students. This month of July will be for me a month to “catch up” with work. During May and June, I traveled very frequently to other Mass centers to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. Although Sundays will be busy as usual with three Masses and several hours of travel, I look forward to some extra time to work on preparation for our priests’ meeting (July 20-23), to answer past correspondence, and to prepare for the up-coming seminary
year. This year we will have twelve seminarians.

The month of July is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus. Once again we are reminded of the beautiful parallel between the Old and New Testaments. The Israelites were delivered from the slavery of the Egyptians when they offered the paschal lamb in sacrifice and placed the blood of the lamb on their doorposts. The first-born sons of the Egyptians were struck dead, and the households of the Israelites were “passed over.” In his Commentary on Sacred Scripture, Bishop Frederick Knecht, D.D., writes:

The Paschal Lamb...was pre-eminently a type of Our Lord, and principally in the following ways. The paschal lamb was to be without blemish: Jesus Christ is the Most Pure, the Most Holy, “a lamb unspotted and undefiled” (1 Peter. 1, 19). The paschal lamb was killed, and its blood spilt: Jesus Christ was slain for us on the altar of the Cross, and shed all His blood for us. Of the paschal lamb “no bone was to be broken”: contrary to the usual custom with those crucified, not one of Our Lord’s bones was broken. Through the blood of the paschal lamb the Israelites were saved from temporal death: through the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ we are saved from the spiritual death of sin, and the eternal death of hell. The paschal lamb, therefore, foretold that the future Saviour would be unspotted; that He would sacrifice Himself for us;

that He would give His Life and Blood for us; that not one of His bones would be broken; and that we, through His sacrifice, would be saved from death... The blood of the paschal lamb obtained mercy for the Israelites, and saved them from death, only because it was a type of the Redeemer of the world. Its atoning and saving power did not lie in itself, but came from the Blood of Jesus Christ whose sacrifice and death were pre-figured by the death of the lamb. The Israelites, because they sacrificed the paschal lamb and sprinkled their houses with its blood, having faith in the future Redeemer, were spared by reason of that faith. Even in the Old Testament, it was only through faith in the future Redeemer that men could obtain pardon.

How precious are our souls in the sight of God! We were redeemed at a great price—the Precious Blood of Jesus. How appropriate was Our Lady’s July apparition at Fatima in which she showed the children a vision of Hell. Our Lady lamented that so many souls go to Hell because there is no one to pray and sacrifice for them. How much more true today is this message. During these summer months let us offer up prayers and sacrifices (especially the summer heat) for the conversion of sinners.

With my prayers and blessings,
Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI
Our Livestock to Feed the Priests, Religious, Seminarians, and Boarder Students

Isidora is our Angus/Jersey mix; she was our very first cow—mother of Samson & Ferdinand

Isabella is 100% Jersey and the mother of Constantine and Columbus

Between Isidora and Isabella we have received up to eleven gallons of fresh milk a day!

Constantine will soon follow in the hoof-marks of Samson when he reaches twelve hundred pounds, to rest in packages in our freezer.

Right Top: Ferdinand is growing up very nicely and weighs over five hundred pounds.

Right Bottom: Sr. Mary Alphonsa, CMD bottle-feeds Columbus, our newest calf.
**Father Connell Answers Moral Questions**


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**The Machine and Servile Work**

**Question:** According to the common teaching of theologians, a Catholic who devotes two and a half hours or more to servile work on Sunday, without any dispensation or excusing cause, is guilty of mortal sin. When a person works with the aid of a machine which relieves him of much of the physical labor, is the time thus spent to be reckoned as a period of servile work?

**Answer:** We must distinguish between various types of machines. When a machine needs only to be set in operation, the time during which it operates would not seem to constitute servile work for the operator. This is particularly applicable to the modern washing machine. The housewife puts the clothing into a receptacle, presses a button, and then nothing more is required on her part than to return some time later and remove the clothes, washed and ready to be hung up for drying. I believe that in such a case she is to be accounted as performing servile work only during the period needed to put the clothing into the machine, to remove it and to hang it up. Perhaps a week’s washing for a large family could be done with the aid of such a machine, the process being repeated several times in the course of three or four hours, while actually less than an hour’s manual work is required on the part of the housewife. In the event that no dispensation has been obtained and that there is no excusing cause, a venial sin is committed, but not a mortal sin. For, although the machine is operated much longer than the period of two and a half hours, which, as the questioner states, constitutes grave matter in respect to servile work, the labor expended by the operator of the machine lasts only a short period.

However, there is another type of machine, such as that used for farm work, which requires the constant supervision and activity of the operator. Machines used for harvesting, winnowing, threshing, etc., are of this type. Such machines, though they expedite the work considerably and render it less onerous than when it is performed merely by hand, do not seem to render the work of the operator non-servile. Sometimes, indeed, his labor is quite strenuous in the task of operating the machine; but even supposing his expenditure of energy is slight, it must be accounted as servile work. In this latter case, however, we could accept the opinion that for light servile work a period of three hours is necessary before a person is to be considered guilty of mortal sin (Cf. Merkelbach, *Summa theologiae moralis* [Paris, 1938], II, n. 688).

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**Payment of Correct Price**

**Question:** A librarian sometimes receives bills which contain errors. When he is overcharged, he protests, and the error is promptly corrected. However, it sometimes happens that the error is the other way—that the price charged for a book is certainly less than the seller intended. Is the librarian bound in such a case to call attention of the dealer to this mistake? If so, on what principle?

**Answer:** When a buyer is sure that the bill sent by the dealer mistakenly calls for a lower price than that intended by the latter, he is bound to make known the fact so that the bill may be corrected and the full price charged. This is called for by the principle that in ordering an article from a dealer a person implicitly agrees to pay the price which the dealer has set; consequently he is bound to pay this price, once he has accepted the article, even though the bill erroneously contains a lower price. Hence, the librarian spoken of by the questioner is bound in justice to transmit to the dealer the price which he certainly meant to charge for the book. We emphasize the fact that it must be certain that this is the price intended by the seller before the buyer is bound to question the amount demanded for the bill; for if there is solid probability that the dealer in this instance knowingly reduced the price, the buyer can satisfy his obligations by paying the reduced amount, without asking any questions.

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**MATER DEI SEMINARY**

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